

October 13, 1956

Dr. Hilary Koprowski
267 Linden Avenue
Englewood, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Koprowski:

Your news of the rejuvenation of the old Wistar brings an exciting prospect: I know that under your direction, the "study of the mammalian cell" would have a very tangible and fruitful development. The concept of an affiliation which would enable me to continue the directions of my own studies, and still participate indirectly in other aspects of cell biology is a very tempting one. The type of position you indicate is also an attractive one, in so far as it might permit some expansion of the activities I already have without the administrative obligations of a directorship. I could scarcely think of anyone I would preferably see in the position you are considering— a remark I hope you will take in the same spirit as you offered your own. So you can see I am prepared to give this question the most sympathetic consideration.

On the other hand, I must also say that the prospect of moving to Philadelphia is rather appalling, that Esther and I find Madison a pleasant city to live in, and that the University has been quite considerate of my requirements, so ~~that~~ I have no basis for acute dissatisfaction. I have sometimes thought that our facilities have been more primitive and cramped than are available elsewhere, but they have not been a serious limitation— and by discouraging the accumulation of too unwieldy a group, may have some virtue. However, they are grossly inadequate for any such programs a tissue culture or animal work that would require substantial service space, and this has in part oriented the direction of my own work. On balance, I would suspect that the additional factor of inertia would keep me here, but I do not wish to confirm an erroneous impression that I am uninterested in considering any alternative situations. If I can make the suggestion without offering a false and undue encouragement, I would be glad to hear some more details such as the facilities and personal opportunities that might be expected to pertain to such an appointment, and the salary arrangements. I will understand you may not yet be in a position to negotiate on these matters, but I would want to know as much of the prospects as you would in like circumstances.

Let me add that my present salary is \$10,000 (for an "11-month appointment" 1956-57) and that present university policy portends a 20-25% increase during the next two years (we hope!). My teaching obligations at present are quite light, and not at all onerous. I would assume that there was no statutory bar to my wife's continuing as a research associate for her

own related program— the funds for this having customarily come from "outside" grants.

If your own acceptance of this attractive situation is directly contingent on my assurances of acceptance, it would be cruel of me to lead you on, so I am frank to say that at present "I am willing to be tempted" or to be jolted out of my present routine adjustment here. May I presume to suggest that regardless of my personal response, you yourself should be in the best position to determine whether you would have the freedom of action, and the resources, to build the kind of group you have in mind.

In any case, you know that you have my best wishes for good judgment and all success in this venture.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics